

What is claimed is:

1. A programmable frequency scanning radio receiver comprising:

a receiver that receives radio frequency transmissions at a plurality of discrete frequencies;

a database of frequency data including operating frequencies and geographic locations of a plurality of transmitting parties;

a position locator circuit ^{host system} that identifies the location of the receiver;

a compiler circuit that identifies transmitting parties of interest from the plurality of transmitting parties based upon the location of the receiver;

a memory that stores frequency data corresponding to the transmitting parties of interest; and

a processing circuit coupled to the receiver, the database, the position locator circuit, the compiler circuit and the memory that provides the location of the receiver to the compiler circuit, stores the frequency data in the memory and controls the receiver to monitor transmissions at the frequencies of the transmitting parties of interest.

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2. The programmable frequency scanning radio receiver as recited in claim 1 wherein the database of frequency data is stored within a second memory internal to the frequency scanning radio receiver.

3. The programmable frequency scanning radio receiver as recited in claim 1 wherein the database of frequency data is stored on a memory device that is removably insertable into the frequency scanning radio receiver.

4. The programmable frequency scanning radio receiver as recited in claim 1 wherein the database of frequency data further comprises frequency data relating to at least one usage type.

5. The programmable frequency scanning radio receiver as recited in claim 1 wherein the position locator circuit is a GPS based circuit.

6. The programmable frequency scanning radio receiver as recited in claim 1 wherein the position locator circuit is a cellular network based circuit.

10. A programmable frequency scanning radio receiver comprising:

a receiver that receives radio frequency transmissions at a plurality of discrete frequencies;

a database of frequency data including operating frequencies and geographic locations of a plurality of transmitting parties;

a compiler circuit that identifies transmitting parties of interest from the plurality of transmitting parties based upon the location of the receiver;

a memory that stores frequency data corresponding to the transmitting parties of interest;

a communication device that communicates locally with a position locating device that identifies the location of the receiver; and

a processing circuit coupled to the receiver, the database, the communication device, the compiler circuit and the memory that provides the location of the receiver to the compiler circuit, stores the frequency data in the memory and controls the receiver to monitor transmissions at the frequencies of the transmitting parties of interest.

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11. The programmable frequency scanning radio receiver as recited in claim 10 wherein the database of frequency data is stored within a second memory internal to the frequency scanning radio receiver.

12. The programmable frequency scanning radio receiver as recited in claim 10 wherein the database of frequency data is stored on a memory device that is removably insertable into the frequency scanning radio receiver.

13. The programmable frequency scanning radio receiver as recited in claim 10 wherein the database of frequency data further comprises frequency data relating to at least one usage type.

14. The programmable frequency scanning radio receiver as recited in claim 10 wherein the position locating device is GPS based.

15. The programmable frequency scanning radio receiver as recited in claim 10 wherein the position locating device is cellular network based.

21. A programmable frequency scanning radio receiver comprising:

a receiver that receives radio frequency transmissions at a plurality of discrete frequencies;

a communication device that communicates locally with a computing device that includes a position locator that identifies the location of the receiver, /a database of frequency data including operating frequencies and geographic locations of a plurality of transmitting parties/ and a compiler circuit that identifies transmitting parties of interest from the plurality of transmitting parties based upon the location of the receiver, the communication device receiving frequency data relating to the transmitting parties of interest;

a memory that stores frequency data corresponding to the transmitting parties of interest; and

a processing circuit coupled to the receiver, the communication device and the memory that stores frequency data in the memory and controls the receiver to monitor transmissions at the frequencies of the transmitting parties of interest.

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22. The programmable frequency scanning radio receiver as recited in claim 21 wherein the position locator is GPS based.

23. The programmable frequency scanning radio receiver as recited in claim 21 wherein the position locator is cellular network based.

24. The programmable frequency scanning radio receiver as recited in claim 21 further comprising an input device coupled to the processing circuit.

25. The programmable frequency scanning radio receiver as recited in claim 21 further comprising a display coupled to the processing circuit that displays identification data relating to the transmitting parties of interest.

26. The programmable frequency scanning radio receiver as recited in claim 21 wherein the communication device communicates via infrared communication.

27. The programmable frequency scanning radio receiver as recited in claim 21 wherein the communication device communicates via short range radio communication.

29. A programmable frequency scanning radio receiver comprising:

a receiver that receives radio frequency transmissions at a plurality of discrete frequencies;

a position locator circuit that identifies the location of the receiver;

a communication device that communicates locally with a computing device including a database of frequency data including operating frequencies and geographic locations of a plurality of transmitting parties and a compiler circuit that identifies transmitting parties of interest from the plurality of transmitting parties based upon the location of the receiver, the communication device transmitting the location information to the computing device and receiving frequency data relating to the transmitting parties of interest from the computing device;

a memory that stores frequency data corresponding to the transmitting parties of interest; and

a processing circuit coupled to the receiver, the position locator circuit, the communication device and the memory that stores the frequency data in the memory and controls the receiver to monitor transmissions at the frequencies of the transmitting parties of interest.

30. The programmable frequency scanning radio receiver as recited in claim 29 wherein the position locator circuit is GPS based.

31. The programmable frequency scanning radio receiver as recited in claim 29 wherein the position locator circuit is cellular network based.

32. The programmable frequency scanning radio receiver as recited in claim 29 further comprising an input device coupled to the processing circuit.

33. The programmable frequency scanning radio receiver as recited in claim 32 wherein the position locator circuit receives position information input into the input device.

34. The programmable frequency scanning radio receiver as recited in claim 29 further comprising a display coupled to the processing circuit that displays identification data relating to the transmitting parties of interest.

35. The programmable frequency scanning radio receiver as recited in claim 29 wherein the communication device communicates via infrared communication.

36. The programmable frequency scanning radio receiver as recited in claim 29 wherein the communication device communicates via short range radio communication.

37. The programmable frequency scanning radio receiver as recited in claim 29 wherein the communication device is coupled to the computing device via a data cable.

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38. A method for programming a frequency scanning radio receiver to monitor frequencies of transmitting parties of interest comprising the steps of:

maintaining a non remote database of frequency data including operating frequencies and geographic locations of a plurality of transmitting parties;

identifying the location of the frequency scanning radio receiver;

compiling frequency data for the transmitting parties of interest selected from the plurality of transmitting parties based upon the location of the frequency scanning radio receiver; and

programming the frequency scanning radio receiver to monitor transmissions at the frequencies of the transmitting parties of interest.

39. The method as recited in claim 38 wherein the step of maintaining a non remote database of frequency data of a plurality of transmitting parties further comprises maintaining the non remote database of frequency data in a memory internal to the frequency scanning radio receiver.

40. The method as recited in claim 38 wherein the step of maintaining a non remote database of frequency data of a plurality of transmitting parties further comprises maintaining the non remote database of frequency data in a memory device that is removably insertable into the frequency scanning radio receiver.

41. The method as recited in claim 38 wherein the step of maintaining a non remote database of frequency data of a plurality of transmitting parties further comprises maintaining the non remote database of frequency data in a local device communicably coupled to the frequency scanning radio receiver.

42. The method as recited in claim 41 further comprising the step of communicating between the local device and the frequency scanning radio receiver via infrared communication.

43. The method as recited in claim 41 further comprising the step of communicating between the local device and the frequency scanning radio receiver via short range radio communication.

44. The method as recited in claim 41 further comprising the step of communicating between the local device and the frequency scanning radio receiver via a data cable.

45. The method as recited in claim 38 the step of maintaining a non remote database of frequency data of a plurality of transmitting parties further comprises maintaining the non remote database of frequency data relating to at least one usage type.

46. The method as recited in claim 38 wherein the step of identifying the location of the frequency scanning radio receiver further comprises identifying the location of the frequency scanning radio receiver using an internal GPS based position locator circuit.

47. The method as recited in claim 38 wherein the step of identifying the location of the frequency scanning radio receiver further comprises identifying the location of the frequency scanning radio receiver using a local GPS-based position locating device.

48. The method as recited in claim 38 wherein the step of identifying the location of the frequency scanning radio receiver further comprises identifying the location of the frequency scanning radio receiver using an internal cellular network based position locator circuit.

49. The method as recited in claim 38 wherein the step of identifying the location of the frequency scanning radio receiver further comprises identifying the location of the frequency scanning radio receiver using a local cellular network based position locating device.

50. The method as recited in claim 38 wherein the step of identifying the location of the receiver further comprises identifying the location of the receiver using an input device.

51. The method as recited in claim 38 further comprising displaying identification data corresponding to the transmitting party of interest when receiving a transmission therefrom.

52. A method for dynamically programming a frequency scanning radio receiver to monitor frequencies of transmitting parties of interest comprising the steps of:

maintaining a non remote database of frequency data including operating frequencies and geographic locations of a plurality of transmitting parties;

identifying the location of the frequency scanning radio receiver;

compiling frequency data for the transmitting parties of interest selected from the plurality of transmitting parties based upon the location of the frequency scanning radio receiver;

programming the frequency scanning radio receiver to monitor transmissions at the frequencies of the transmitting parties of interest;

moving the frequency scanning radio receiver to a different location having different transmitting parties of interest; and

dynamically reprogramming the frequency scanning radio receiver to monitor transmissions at the frequencies of the different transmitting parties of interest by identifying the different location of the frequency scanning radio receiver and compiling frequency data for the different transmitting parties of interest selected from the plurality of

transmitting parties based upon the different location of the
frequency scanning radio receiver.

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